

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 1, 1896, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. Sunday, November 1st, 1896. Dear Mabel:

Haven't anything to say — but find this sheet of paper lying on my desk — and so take up my pen to let you see that I am thinking of you.

I opened my trunk this morning and found ever so many little packages to be delivered to different people. Much surprised — for I had forgotten that there was anything in the trunk beyond my clothes.

Find you have remembered everybody excepting Lizzie. Found a ribbon in an envelope marked “Miss Macrae” and as it seemed to be a more suitable present for Lizzie than for Bessie Macrae — I concluded that you had made a mistake in the surname and intended it for Dizzie McNeil — and so gave it to her.

Maggie was quite overwhelmed by her gift. I was just about putting on one of the new ties in the trunk — when I noticed the name “Duncan” in pencil upon the silk band. Every necktie had a name upon it — and poor me was sold!

Spent the afternoon with Mr. McCurdy in the open air. Walked up to the new spring and etc., etc.

Been trying hard all day not to think of Laboratory work — so as to give my mind a rest — but with rather poor results until the evening — when I happened to catch sight of “The speeches of Hon. Joseph Howe” and 2 remembered that I had only half finished the first volume. Became interested at once and have only now stopped. (1 A. M.)

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Howe was certainly a most remarkable man — a great man even — and I am glad I bought his works. There is a vigor and elegance in his style that is very refreshing. He seems to have been responsible for the establishment of “Responsible Government” upon the English Model — in the North American Colonies. I have left him urging — unsuccessfully — the cause of common schools in Nova Scotia.

I have had a visitor this evening — Carlo (Mr. Martin's dog) appeared on the verandah pleading to be let in. He seemed overjoyed to see me — and I hadn't the heart to turn him away in the dark — as I know his new home is miles away. I have given him a good supper, and he is now lying in Beckey's place by my side on the sofa in the study. I will send him home in the morning.

Must now write out my instructions to Mr. Ellis for laboratory work tomorrow.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.